

Three Rivers Community College Fall 2010 Susan McGuire
English 101: Composition Tuesday Evenings 6:00 – 8:45 p.m.
Grasso Tech in Groton
email: smcguire@trcc.comnet.edu
Office Hours: Before and after class and by appointment

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

This composition course is an introductory writing course focusing on expository writing and research. Weekly writing assignments, analyses of reading assignments, class discussions and formal papers are designed to improve writing skills. This course includes in-class activities designed to increase self-confidence and nurture confidence in writing.

COURSE OBJECTIVES:

To prepare students to write effective college-level essays
To gain proficiency in analyzing and interpreting ideas from readings
To gain grammatical proficiency including spelling and punctuation
To demonstrate clarity, specificity and organization in writing
To analyze the strengths and weaknesses of one's own and others' writing
To learn and apply MLA standards for papers including citation format
To increase vocabulary

REQUIRED TEXTS:

Graff, Gerald, Cathy Birkenstein, and Russell Durst, eds. *They Say/I Say: The Moves That Matter in Academic Writing With Readings*.
New York: Norton, 2009.

Faigley, Lester. *The Brief Penguin Handbook*. 3rd ed. New York: Pearson, 2008.

GRADE POLICY:

Attendance and participation	20%
Weekly homework assignments (20)	10%
Reaction Paragraphs (16)	10%
Three typed essays	30%
Three in-class essays	30%

COURSE REQUIREMENTS:

Class attendance and participation are required. Any absence will lower this portion of your grade. Three late arrival/leaving early equals one absence. Class participation is crucial to the educational environment, so please come to class willing to engage in discussions. Be prepared to discuss readings on the day they are due.

McGuire's Composition Syllabus p. 2.

No Cell Phones are allowed during class. Phones must be silenced or turned off and put away. There will be a short break in the middle of our marathon class session when you can check your personal electronic devices. Please do not text or check them during class.

Weekly homework assignments should be labeled with the sequential assignment number, the question number, and the page number from the textbook for each question. Please keep up with the weekly homework assignments. All of the assignments are listed on your syllabus schedule, so you just have to transfer the information to your homework paper.

Three 5-Page typed essays are designed to give you opportunities to demonstrate your proficiency in analyzing and interpreting ideas from our readings in the context of your own opinions about the issues presented. Writing is a process requiring editing and rewriting. Feel free to bring your initial drafts to The Writing Center, if you want help with your papers. Each essay should be typed, double-spaced with one-inch margins, proofread and passed in no later than the due date. Early papers are welcome. Late papers will be penalized. I do not accept emailed papers, hard copies only. Please follow the MLA Guide For Writers of Research Papers for documentation formats.

Note: Plagiarism is unacceptable. To plagiarize is “to steal and pass off [the ideas or words of another] as one’s own” (Webster’s New Collegiate Dictionary). Plagiarizing is a serious violation of academic standards and can result in a failing grade for the paper, and even a failing grade for the course. Familiarize yourself with **TRCC Academic Honesty Policy**.

Three In-Class Essays give students the opportunity to demonstrate clarity, specificity and organization with their writing. These in-class essays will also reveal the student’s increased understanding of grammatical proficiency including spelling and appropriate punctuation without electronic aids. You are welcome to bring dictionaries and thesauruses for these tests.

Withdrawal Policy states that up until December 9th students may officially withdraw at the Registrars Office. Any student who stops attending, but who does not officially withdraw will receive a grade of “F” for this course.

* **Note:** Please contact me privately to discuss your specific needs if you believe you need course accommodations based on the impact of a disability, medical condition, or if you have emergency medical information to share. Contact Disability Support Services for individualized accommodations, advising advocacy, counseling, technical assistance and referral information.

** **Note:** If, as a result of the placement, you were advised to take English 094, and you have not done so, you place yourself at a serious disadvantage in this class.

- 8/31 - Introductions and Diagnostic Essay
- 9/7 - Read Preface – Introduction vii – 14. **p. 14: 2** (Assign. #1)
Read pp 17-47. **p. 38: 1** (Assign. #2)
- 9/14 - Read pp 51-97. **p. 86: 1** (Assign. #3)
- 9/21 - Read pp 101-131. **p. 122: 1** Just 1st two requirements of the the exercise. (Assign. #4) Also read pp 135-148.
- 9/28 - Read pp 151-171. **p. 155: 1** (Assign. #5)
p. 170: 1 (Assign. #6)
Read pp 182-209. **p. 199: 2** (Assign. #7)
p. 205: 1 (Assign. #8)
p. 209: 1 (Assign. #9)
- 10/5 - **1st Paper Due – 5 typed pages.** Topic is based on your own opinions about some of the issues in Chapter 13: “Is Fast Food the New Tobacco?” Cite textual evidence according to MLA.
- 10/12 - Read pp 211-240. **p. 230: 5** (Assign. #10)
p. 234: 1 (Assign. #11)
p. 240: 2 (Assign. #12)
Read pp 241-256. **p. 256: 4** (Assign. #13)
- 10/19 - Read pp 257-266. **p. 269: 1, 2** (Assign. #14, #15)
Read pp 270-283. **p. 280: 1, 4** (Assign. # 16. #17)
p. 283: 4 (Assign. #18)
Read pp 284-304 **p. 291: 1** (Assign. #19)
p. 304: 5 (Assign. #20)
- 10/26 - Mid-Term Exam
- 11/2 - **2nd Paper Due – 5 typed pages.** Topic is based on your own opinions about some of the issues in Chapter 14: “Are 24, Family Guy, and Grand Theft Auto Actually Good for You?” Cite textual evidence according to MLA.
- 11/9 - Read beginning of Chapter 15 pp 305-341. Write four reaction paragraphs, one for each of the four articles.

- 11/16 - Read the rest of Chapter 15 pp 342-391. Write four reaction paragraphs, one for each of the four articles.
- 11/23 - Read beginning of Chapter 16 pp 392-441. Write four reaction paragraphs, one for each of the four articles.
- 11/30 - Read the rest of Chapter 16 pp 442-481. Write four reaction paragraphs for each of the four articles.
- 12/7 - **3rd Paper Due – 5 typed pages.** Topic based on your own opinions about some of the issues in either Chapter 15 “Is Economic Mobility Just A Dream?” or Chapter 16 “Is America Over?”
- 12/14 - **Final Exam**